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CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 10, 1986

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As the Congress returns to an exceedingly heavy work schedule prior to sine die adjournment, I wanted to once again convey to you my grave concern about the situation in Central America and the urgency of completing final action on a compromise plan to provide assistance to the Nicaraguan freedom fighters. This bipartisan proposition has passed the House and Senate and now awaits final conference action on the Military Construction Appropriations bill.

The Nicaraguan freedom fighters cling to our promise of assistance. The affirmative votes of the House and Senate have confirmed congressional commitment to that goal. However, months have passed since House action and weeks have passed since the Senate reaffirmed its position. In the intervening time, supplies of food and medicine have been drained and the ability of the democratic resistance to defend itself has been significantly reduced. There has been no lack of resolve on the part of the Soviets or their proxies in arming and sustaining a regime that clearly seeks to destroy the hope of freedom for millions in Central America.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that you will assist in expediting conference action on the Military Construction Appropriations bill in order that it might reach my desk for signature as quickly as

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possible. Time is short, and we must avoid further delay in order to sustain those in Central America who have committed themselves to democracy and freedom.

Sincerely,

*Ronald Reagan*

The Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.  
Speaker of the  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515